

REMARKS

In the Office Action identified above, the Examiner rejected claims 1-13, 17, 18, 20-26, 31-43, and 47-51 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cartier et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,795,543) in view of Lee (U.S. Patent No. 5,537,470); rejected claims 16, 29-30, and 46 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cartier et al. in view of Lee and further in view of Falcon et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0076031); and rejected claims 27 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cartier et al. and Lee and further in view of Fields et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,839,916) and/or Aoyama (U.S. Patent No. 5,838,767.). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.¹

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Le for allowing Applicants' representative to discuss the pending claims during a telephone interview on July 26, 2006. During the interview, the pending claims were discussed and the Examiner clarified her rejections. Further, during the interview, the Examiner suggested claim amendments she believed would distinguish the claimed invention from the cited references. Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 17, and 31 to incorporate the Examiner's suggested claim amendments, as discussed during the interview. In addition, Applicants have added new claims 52 and 53 to include additional claim elements incorporating language that was also discussed during the interview. Accordingly, Applicants

¹ As Applicants' remarks with respect to the Examiner's rejections are sufficient to overcome these rejections, Applicants' silence as to certain assertions or requirements applicable to such rejections (e.g., whether a reference constitutes prior art, motivation to combine references, etc.) is not a concession by Applicants that such assertions are accurate or such requirements have been met, and Applicants reserve the right to analyze and dispute such in the future.

respectfully submit that claims 1, 17, 31, 52, and 53 are allowable. In addition, claims 2-13, 16, 18, 20-30, 32-43, and 46-51² depend from claims 1, 17, or 31 and thus require all the elements of claims 1, 17, or 31. Accordingly, claims 2-13, 16, 18, 20-30, 32-43, and 46-51 are also allowable.³

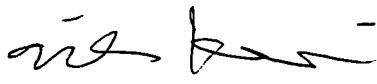
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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² Furthermore, during the interview, the rejection of claims 47-49 and 51 were also discussed. The Examiner agreed that the manual activity rejections to these claims would be withdrawn and the Examiner would reconsider the claims in view of a formal response.

³ As Applicants' remarks with respect to the base independent claims are sufficient to overcome the Examiner's rejection of all claims dependent therefrom, Applicants' silence as to the Examiner's assertions with respect to dependent claims is not a concession by Applicants to the Examiner's assertions as to these claims, and Applicants reserve the right to analyze and dispute such assertions in the future.